likely to have a negative impact. CIL have informed that coal is being supplied to consumers against current sponsorships.

**Clubbing of lignite with F & G Grade of Coal for royalty rates**

5823. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-SHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Lignite was clubbed with F&G grade of coal as far as royalty rates are concerned during 1990-91;

(b) if so, the reasons for separating it from F&G grade of coal while revising the rate of royalty on coal under Government notification dated 12th October, 1994;

(c) whether Government of Gujarat has represented to the Central Government for its claim of higher rates of royalty;

(d) what action has been taken by Government on the request of the State Government;

(e) whether Government are aware of the fact that Government of Gujarat is suffering revenue loss due to the inaction on the part of the Central Government; and

(f) if so, when the Central Government will decide the Government of Gujarat's claim for higher rates of royalty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Royalty on Lignite was fixed for the first time in July, 1990, at Rs. 2.50 per tonne. Lignite has been categorised as Grade 'V coal along with 'F' & 'G' grade non-coking coal. Rates of royalty on coal were earlier revised in August '91. The rate of royalty on lignite was not revised at that time as its revision was not due. The rate of royalty on lignite continues to be at Rs. 2.50 per tonne though the rates of royalty on coal have been further revised recently.

In the recent past, a proposal has been received from the Government of Gujarat for revision of royalty rates on lignite and also for allowing higher royalty on lignite produced in Gujarat.

(d) to (f) A Study Group has been constituted in the Ministry of Coal in March '95 to examine the question of revision of rate of royalty on lignite as also the request of the State Government and all other relevant issues.

**Methods adopted for Coal Mining in Orissa**

5824. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the different methods adopted for coal mining in different coal mines in Orissa;

(b) whether it is a fact that coal mining is going on in unscientific way in some coal fields in Orissa;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken to identify those coal mines and take necessary steps to take up coal mining activities in a scientific and systematic way; and

(e) the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The choice of method of mining, whether opencast or underground, is generally dependent on factors like nature and geometry of coal deposit, geo-mining conditions and tech-no-economic and environmental consider-ations. Depending on these factors both underground and opencast methods of mining are in vogue in the coalfields of Orissa.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.